SOUTHERN Farm Leader

Dedicated to the farm workers', sharecroppers', tenants' and small owners' struggle for union, justice and a better life.

OFFICIAL ORGAN SHARE CROPPERS UNION

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Planter Indicted For Peonage In Arkansas Strike

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Seventy years ago a war was fought to end slavery in the South.

But this month the United States government had to arrest a planter because he forced eight Negroes to work on his plantation against their will. The government charges him with slavery.

He is Paul D. Peacher, an Arkansas landlord. The eight Negroes are members of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union who last Spring went out on strike against the starvation wages offered cotton choppers.

They were arrested and sentenced to jail. But Mayor T. S. Mitchell is one of Peacher's good friends. He obligingly turned the Negroes over to Peacher, who is the city marshal of Earle.

Peacher forced the Negroes to work at the point of a gun and at night locked them in a newly-built stockade on his plantation.

Twenty days later, when there was no more cotton to be chopped, Peacher, who had no further use for his "slaves" released them.

WALKER COUNTY SCHOOL STRIKE ENDS IN TRUCE

JASPER, Ala.—The strike of about 10,000 of Walker County's 11,000 school children ended as union leaders agreed to a truce proposed by Governor Graves. The strike began when County Superintendent of Schools, A. S. Scott, refused to rehire 3 union teachers, because of their "outside activities" and because he wanted to keep the schools "out of the union muddle."

The parents, through the leadership of the Jasper Central Labor Union and the Walker County Farmers' Union, kept their children home demanding that A. S. Scott be fired and that teachers be guaranteed the right to organize without interference. The Jasper Central Labor Union declared that between 85% and 90% of the parents in Walker County are either directly connected with union labor or sympathetic to it.

Governor Graves sent Lawrence Lee, his personal legal advisor, to make a complete study of the situation.

POLL TAX FIGHT SET IN ALABAMA

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—A petition calling for repeal of the Alabama Poll Tax law will be circulated by the Share Croppers Union in a campaign for the right to vote. The petition quotes the Constitution which says, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges of citizens of the United States."

The Share Croppers Union will ask labor unions, churches and other workers' and farmers' organizations to support this campaign and demand a special session of the legislature to repeal the poll tax law.

WILLIAM C. IRBY

William C. Irby, National Committee member of the Farmers' Union, toured Louisiana speaking at farmers' meetings with Clyde Johnson, farm organizer in this state. Many new members were recruited and Mr. Irby said it would be possible to bring Louisiana back into the national fold as a state union before the National Convention of the Farmers' Union the third week in November.

Dairymen Stop Baton Rouge Milk Supply in Strike for Fair Price

BATON ROUGE, La.—Striking dairy farmers from Parishes surrounding Baton Rouge cut off more than half the city's milk supply in their fight to win $2.55 per hundredweight for their milk. Strong picket lines were on the job as H. C. Vernon of Kentwood, president of the Dairy Farmers' Protective League, arrived Oct. 5th to direct strike operations.

The Louisiana Creamery, which supplies half the city's milk, was picketed day and night by the Slaughter unit of the League. Picketing continued around the Louisiana Ice and Electric Company after its manager, E. J. Williams, announced the dairy department had been closed because they could not meet the farmers' demands. Pickets emptied milk bottles from creamery's trucks that attempted to deliver milk.

The strike is directed against creameries that refuse to pay the same price for "surplus" milk but insist on paying only for the butter fat.

Mr. Vernon announced that the Drucilla Lane Dairy would deliver all milk necessary for hospitals and children.

ALABAMA CIVIC LEADER BEATEN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Joseph Geldout, native of Birmingham and Southern Secretary of the National Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners was kidnapped, brutally beaten and robbed by a gang of thugs the night of September 23rd. The powerful protest against this lawless act forced an investigation which is going on now. Geldout, a former University of Alabama professor, says he will be able to identify two of the thugs.

Mr. Geldout is active in the defense of the Scottsboro Boys and Jack Barton, Birmingham Communist leader imprisoned under an unconstitutional law prohibiting possession of more than one copy of working class literature.

Program For Immediate Drouth Aid Adopted at Sioux City Farm Meet

W. P. A. LAY-OFFS FORCED LABOR; UNIONS PROTEST

Prompt protest by the Share Croppers Union and the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union against stopping rural WPA projects and forcing workers into the cotton fields to work for starvation wages forced officials to order State Administrators to continue projects and insure that the WPA wage was paid for cotton picking. Wayne Allison, Mississippi WPA Administrator, had closed WPA projects in order to force men, women and children into the cotton fields.

Clyde Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Share Croppers Union sent the following telegram to WPA officials in Washington: "We protest closing rural WPA projects in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas to supply cotton pickers for planters at inhuman low wage scale. We protest co-operation between local administrators and landlords in move to slash wages, unload relief rolls and starve the people. We demand all projects be continued, no worker forced to accept other work at less than WPA weekly wage standard, workers accepting work picking cotton be rehired by WPA at end of season."

LOUISIANA TAX ON NECESSITIES MEETS PROTEST

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The State's 2% "luxury" tax has met increasing and bitter protest from merchants in many parishes because sales are decreasing and handling of sales tax tokens causes extra labor. In New Orleans an additional sales tax of 2% making a total tax of 4c on the dollar, is being protested with a louder voice.

The workers and farmers of the state have not voiced their protest as loudly, mainly because they are not organized well enough. Representatives of consumers protesting the tax have said that a "Boston Tea Party" should be held to dump the tax tokens in the river, copying the tactics of their fore-fathers who dumped English tea in the Boston Harbor in protest against oppressive English taxation, before the United States secured its independence.

A campaign for repeal of the sales tax is gaining ground and it is expected that labor unions, farm unions, consumers organizations, churches and other organizations will join the independent merchants in the fight on the tax.

Southern Delegates from Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Alabama

SIOUX CITY, Iowa.—250 delegates from 12 drouth-stricken states met in Sioux City Auditorium Sept. 29-30 and worked out a program for immediate drouth aid to working farmers and elected a Continuations Committee to push the program on a national scale. Delegates represented the Farmers' Union, Farm Holiday Association, Oklahoma Tenant Farmers' Union and the Alabama Share Croppers Union. The Southern delegation included 5 from the Share Croppers Union, 1 from the Alabama Farmers' Union, 6 from the Louisiana Farmers' Union and 4 from the Oklahoma Tenant Farmers' Union.

Southern delegates shocked the Conference with their reports of conditions on the cotton plantations. The independent and freedom-loving farmers from the Great Plains of the North-West pledged support to the Southern unions in their struggle for freedom and justice.

During the two-day discussions many resolutions were adopted. Cancellation of all past due seed and feed loans and payment of all future seed and feed loans in kind was voted for.

Another resolution called for all drouth relief committees to have at least 50% representation of working farmers, including tenants and sharecroppers, to be elected by meetings of the farmers in each county. No semi-official or official agricultural agents are to be considered working farmers.

A resolution on relief called for useful W. P. A. projects to provide work for ALL farmers in need of relief and that the wage be 50c an hour, 130 hours a month for both town and country, North and South.

Cost of Production prices and homestead exemption with graduated land tax laws were called for in one resolution. Another resolution demanded that crop reduction programs be outlawed and that all sales taxes on food, clothes and feed be eliminated.

Special resolutions dealing with Southern problems included one demanding repeal of the Alabama Poll tax which denies citizens the right to vote, protest against the denial of Negroes in Wagoner County, Oklahoma the right to register to vote, demanding control of drouth relief by landlords through cooperation with government officials be stopped at once, that sharecroppers and tenants debts to the government be cancelled and that councils of defense be organized to settle debts with landlords.

On the evening of the first day a Resettlement Administration moving picture called "The Plow that Broke the Plains" was shown.

In conclusion a Continuations Committee was elected with representatives from each state. O. L. Weber of LeMars, Iowa was elected Chairman, Oliver Rosenberg of North Dakota and Clyde Johnson of Alabama were elected Vice-Chairmen and Harry Carrel, P. O. Box 540, Minneapolis, Minnesota was named Secretary.

WIN DROUTH RELIEF NOW!

AN EDITORIAL

The Sioux City Drouth Conference was a great success. It succeeded in uniting farmers from 12 drouth-stricken states on a program for immediate aid. For the first time the Mason and Dixon line was shattered and farmers from the North-West, the cattle and grain states, joined hands with the Negro and white cotton farmers from the South. These freedom-loving sons of toil were astounded to learn at first hand of the misery, povery and semi-slavery under which Southern farmers are bound. They pledged support to the Southern unions and passed several resolutions in support of sharecroppers' struggles.

Now that the conference is over and we have a program worked out, the big job is to put it in action.

It is the job of the unions to see that every drouth-stricken farmer, white or black, gets relief. Committees should be sent to the County Agent to present all cases. If the local agents refuse relief, then the state and federal officials should be visited by delegations or informed by letter of the cases that need immediate aid. In any case every local union should not stop work until every farmer in need gets relief. The local unions should be a hornet's nest for the agents if they refuse relief, stinging them from every side until they either grant relief or get out of the office so an honest person can perform the job right. In this fight, to lose means to starve.

Not a single farmer should be thrown off the land. In every case the local unions must stop mortgage foreclosures, confiscation of stock or tools for debt or eviction from the land for non-payment of debts. In every case mass meetings should be organized to protest and demand either adjustment or cancellation of the debt. In all cases back seed and feed loans from the government should be cancelled.

Government crop loans should be in the hands of the farmers in time for spring planting. Every farmer should make application for loans in good time so the Government agents will have no excuse for delay. Crop loans must go to sharecroppers, tenants and small farmers, not the rich landlords.

Every farmer, every local union and every County union should be fighting daily for the drouth needs of all the farmers. The fight will not be over until we win all demands of the Drouth Conference, and all farmers get relief!

Democracy Fails When Right To Vote Is Denied..... Abolish The Poll Tax!

STRETCH THE SOUTHERN FARM DOLLAR BY ORGANIZING LOCAL CO-OPERATIVE BUYING

By GORDON McINTIRE

A friend of mine with seven children has to pay $2.40 for a 48lb sack of flour every two weeks. From January to picking time he must buy from the landlord store. He has to pay 10% on all the credit that his landlord gives him. Each time he buys flour he knows that across the street at the cash grocery he could buy the same grade of flour at $6.50 per 200lb barrel. But, of course, he does not have the cash. At this rate a cropper is robbed of about $6.00 every three months. Now that he has a little money for his cotton he is anxious to make it go as far as possible. Here is a plan that has saved money for many buyers, and maybe used by Union locals.

A Cooperative Buying Committee maybe elected by the local. This Committee should find out from the members just about what they will need to buy in the next few weeks and have the local decide to buy certain things at one store if an agreement can be made to get cheaper prices.

Next the Commtitee will have to find out where the goods can be bought. If there is a storekeeper in the neighborhood who is a member of the Union or has been friendly to the Union, he will generally give them better rates than anyone else. The Committee will then make a definite agreement with this storekeeper. If the Committee can show that members will buy 20 pair of shoes the local will probably be able to get these at a 10% discount. The storekeeper may want to charge the regular price and then refund 10% to the Committee after the shoes have been bought. It will be easier for the Committee if an agreement can be made to get the discount when the purchase is made.

In some places it may be difficult to get agreements with local merchants. Some store keepers are under the control of the big landlords. They may say, "We don't want any poor whites or niggers running our stores!" If the Union is not strong enough to answer such challenges the Committee should buy direct from a wholesale company. If it is agreed that the local can buy twelve barrels of flour and the Committee cannot find a grocer who will supply this amount at a reduced price they will have to order and have it shipped. In this case they will also have to make arrangements for the farmers to meet the train or truck with wagons.

There are many different articles that can be bought in this way and money saved for other needs. The stronger the local the easier to start co-operative buying. Trustworthy men and women must be chosen for the Committee and if they do their work well it will help make the Union stronger. The SOUTHERN FARM LEADER will be glad to give help and advise to any of the locals in starting this work.

DROUTH CONFERENCE ASKS ABOLITION OF ALABAMA POLL TAX

Whereas, the great majority of farm laborers, sharecroppers, tenants and small farmers cannot vote because they cannot pay the cumulative poll tax in Alabama, and whereas, this results in a government controlled by landlords and large industrialists and denies the poor people representation in the government, destroys democracy and allows dictatorship in forming policy to suit their interests as against the interests of the great masses of people, both white and Negro; Therefore, be it resolved, that this conference (National Drouth Conference held in Sioux City, Sept. 29-30) go on record as demanding the abolition of the poll tax in Alabama.

ORGANIZE AMERICAN MASSES THE AIM OF INDUSTRIAL UNION GROUP

JOHN L. LEWIS

The 55th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor voted against industrial unionism and A. F. of L. leaders who stood for this organized the Committee for Industrial Organization now headed by John L. Lewis.

The workers in mass-production industries such as steel, mining, textile and so forth were demanding that all the workers in a plant be organized in the same union. The craft unions (Carpenters, Painters, Machinists, and so on) insisted that those who work in a plant at a definite trade be organized in a craft union. This results in several unions in the same shop.

The Committee for Industrial Organization went ahead organizing in the A. F. of L., concentrating on the steel, auto, rubber, and radio industries. They made rapid progress and succeeded in organizing thousands of workers. Steel, the heart of American industry, is hardest to organize because the bosses use spy systems, terror and gun thugs to smash organization.

This summer the Executive Council of the A. F. of L., which is composed of craft union leaders, met and decided to suspend the unions affiliated to the Committee for Industrial Organization. They said the C. I. O. was a dual organization. Local unions all over the United States protested this action of the Executive Council and demanded that the good work of the C. I. O. be aided instead of hindered.

Now the 12 unions affiliated to the C. I. O. have been suspended, pending further action of the next convention of the A. F. of L.

The Executive Council of the A. F. of L. did very little to organize the unorganized, especially in the mass production industries. It is to the best interest of all workers and farmers that the industrial form of organization become the main form so that the masses of American workers can be rapidly organized in powerful unions. All support should go to the Committee for Industrial Organization to have it continue its great work in organizing the masses of American wage slaves.

QUESTIONING OF S.C.U. ATTEMPTED

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Clyde Johnson, editor of SOUTHERN FARM LEADER, was questioned by 2 city detectives here Oct. 8th concerning leaders and members of the Share Croppers Union. Mr. Johnson said that as much information as would be given was already in the hands of the Department of Justice.

The detectives refused to state who entered the complaint for investigation. Johnson told detectives the Union was willing to be investigated providing the investigation be held outside the South, in Washington, D. C., where the Union members could talk freely without fear of violence and lynching. He pointed out that such investigation would prove that landlords and their cohorts in the Alabama Black Belt were guilty of violence against union members, breaking up union meetings, false arrest and lynching.

The detectives took a few copies of SOUTHERN FARM LEADER, which passes regularly through the United States mails, to look over. Mr. Johnson said that just such "investigations" as these show that reactionary forces working to destroy the unions are laying the base for further attacks.

Sugar Workers Win Shorter Work Day

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Labor unrest on the sugar plantations of Hawaii has forced the big companies to grant the 8-hour day for workers in plantation sugar mills after January 1, 1937.

Sugar plantation workers have repeatedly of late expressed determination to get a fair share of the huge profits made by plantation owners. This led to serious strikes on the [illegible] The Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association [illegible] to the 8-hour day.

BROWDER, COMMUNIST CANDIDATE, ARRESTED BY INDIANA SHERIFF

TERRE HAUTE, Ind.—Earl Browder, Communist candidate for president and a figure of international renown, is a vagrant, Sheriff Yates claims.

Yates slapped Browder and two traveling companions in jail as they climbed out of their sleeping berths in a Pullman car shortly after their train had pulled into Terre Haute.

"We were the most extraordinary vagrants," Browder said. "We came off a Pullman car and had about $150 between us."

Unable to prosecute Browder he was summarily dismissed by a local judge. Meanwhile, a Chicago lawyer rushed into a broadcasting studio in Terre Haute to read a speech originally scheduled for delivery by Browder.

The Communist candidate was arrested in order that he would not be able to make his speech over two local radio stations. But the speech was heard. And a few days later Browder's voice was again heard in Terre Haute when he broadcasted from New York over a national hook-up, including a Terre Haute station.

Browder is suing the sheriff for false arrest.

Terre Haute is the home-town of Gene Debs, beloved American labor leader and one of outstanding champions of liberty for the working man.

Socialist Candidate In South Talking On Co-operative Growth

George A. Nelson, a dirt farmer and Socialist vice-presidential candidate, told an audience here that co-operation between the workers and farmers of America is essential if a better world is to be won.

Mr. Nelson pointed out that the Post Office, the streets and sidewalks,

GEO. A. NELSON

parks, government forests and many public utility companies were co-operative in nature. He stressed that co-operative ownership and control of all natural resources and industry was the only way to end poverty of the people in this rich country.

Mr. Nelson is Vice-President of the Farm Holiday Association and a National Committee member of the Farmers' Union. He expressed interest in the Farmers' Union of Louisiana in a discussion with Clyde Johnson, farm organizer in the state.

California Lettuce Strikers Face Thugs

SALINAS, Calif.—4,000 lettuce workers are striking here in the area which raises 80 per cent of America's lettuce crop. They are demanding the preferential system of hiring and equal pay for women who do equal work.

The strikers have been met by an army of special deputies and strike-breakers who have used every type of violence against the workers. 1,500 business men were deputized by the mayor.

Union members have been jailed and beaten, and picket lines have been assaulted by thugs who used tear gas.

In spite of the worse kind of terror the strike remains solid and receives the support of workers in other farm crops.

[illegible] of the strikers are [illegible]

Gov. White Silent As 4 Month School In 40 Counties Lack Funds

JACKSON, Miss.—The Mississippi Supreme Court ruled Sept. 28th that no County can use any part of the money from the state school equalization fund for operating schools the first four months of the term. It is reported that 40 of the 82 counties will not be able to complete the 4 month term this year because of this ruling.

The Court held that the 4 month "constitutional school term" has 3 sources of income, (1) County Poll Tax revenues, (2) the state's per capita common school appropriation, and (3) local school tax levies.

Local school authorities are increasing the pressure on Governor White to call a special session of the legislature to appropriate the needed school funds. So far Governor White has not made any move to indicate he would call a special session.

New York Milk Strike Delayed by Dairymen

NEWPORT, N. Y.—The New York milk strike has been postponed for thirty days, it was announced by the two leaders of the dairymen's association, Stanley and Felix Piseck.

The proposed strike has the support of New York's labor and consumer organizations which stands solidly with the milk producers against the giant milk trust.

The postponement was made necessary by the withdrawal from the dairy men's association of a north county group. "The north county leadership must be revamped," Stanley Pisck declared. "An organization cannot be effected by calling together a few irreconcilable leaders. The masses are the organization."

The strike will be called to abolish the classified price plan which gives farmers a lower price for milk used in the production of ice ceram and other dairy products although the farmers sell the trust the same quality milk for which they are paid a higher price when the milk is pasteurized and bottled.

The farmers will also demand cost of production plus a reasonable profit.

Subscription Contest

Rules.....Prizes

This contest is open to any person in the South. All you have to do is get subscriptions to SOUTHERN FARM LEADER from farmers.

25c A YEAR

1st PRIZE	$5.00
2nd PRIZE	3.00
3rd PRIZE	2.00
10 PRIZES	1.00

(In case of a tie for any prize, the same prize will be given both contestants.)

CONTEST WILL CLOSE DECEMBER 1ST!

Join in the Contest! You can win a cash prize and at the same time build the circulation of the South's fighting farm paper. For further details write to SOUTHERN FARM LEADER, P. O. Box 259, New Orleans, La.

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THE RURAL WORKER

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New York City

OUR READERS WRITE

STARVATION COUNTY FRAUD

The Story of A Good Watermelon Cr op that Could Not Find A Market

Brother Editor:

This year Starvation County farmers were going to strike it rich shipping Watermelon. Our County Agent, a God-send from the local Chamber of Commerce, had been working hard to form a shipping association through which farmers could sell their juicy fruit to the hungry millions waiting at the other end of the line. Of course we had grown melons before, fine melons, millions of them. We sold them on local markets and got a fair price according to size and time of year.

However, with reduced acreage of cotton, the drouth, our stock gone and with the bankers and loan sharks demanding their pound of flesh, something had to be done. Everything had been tried from cabbage to sweet potatoes to strawberries, but it all ended in failure. But as regular as the sap rises in the spring, new frauds are invented and a Watermelon Association was the creation of those who pretend to know, what is best for the farmers.

THE SUBSTITUTE CROP FRAUD

Lots of meetings were called and the fantastic possibilities of turning our yellow gullies into so many Gold Mines were accepted by the unsuspecting farmers as a matter of course. All that was needed was lots of melons and a market. The County Agent always seemed to have a liberal supply of markets.

Some people are always sure to make a pile of money on a watermelon crop because they are expensive to plant. Lots of high price fertilizer and expensive seed is needed. Due to unfavorable weather conditions most of us had to replant, which meant a double outlay. But despite a cold, wet spring and a record-breaking drouth this summer, Starvation County farmers had never seen finer melons. But just as prosperity was about to smile on us from around the corner, something had to happen. The market had been lost for some mysterious reason and it couldn't be located anywhere.

THE BANKER'S FRIEND

The County Agent tried to put the blame on the farmer. He said the melons wern't ripe, or they were too small or too big or both or neither of the two. A near riot was the result. Several meetings were called at the Court House in an effort to try and pacify the militant farmers but the Board of Supervisors was forced to fire the Agent.

But then the interesting fact developed that the Board of Supervisors had no authority to fire their own Agent paid with County funds. The local Chamber of Commerce, through the Federal Agent, said "No!" The Agent was so valuable to the Chamber of Commerce that they paid his salary after the Board removed him from the payroll.

THE CRASH AND STARVATION

By giving truck drivers half the load for hauling melons to the nearest market, the farmers got rid of the first two or three loads. But after that it took the whole load to pay for transportation so we had to feed our fine melons to our hogs and cows.

With other crops cut 50% and more due to the drouth, with no hay, cow feed selling at $2.60 a sack and other things needed to be able to live as high in proportion, and on top of all that, getting only 50c a hundred for picking cotton without corn bread or sow belly for dianer, thousands of farmers all over the state are facing a terrible winter.

We do think the Editor of SOUTHERN FARM LEADER is striking the correct note by inviting all Southern farmers and farm organizations to send delegates to the National Drouth Conference in Sioux City. It will be the place where farmers will be more likely to find a correct solution for their drouth problems.

A HOMELESS TAXPAYER

SLAVERY—1936

Dear Brother:

I am writing you about the dirty landlords, and how they rob us poor tenants. We work hard last year by the day, between the plow handles from dark to dark. We got one piece of a meal a day and we had to bundle up and bundle down after the potatoes and rutting like a hog and get cursed at like a dog. I did that one week and he didn't give me nothing but a month old pig. When I heard about this union and what it was for, I joined it and I am proud to be a member of the Farmers' Union and I am willing to help every good effort for our justice and rights.

We was took 55 miles away from home working on the Levee, making a dollar a day and board. And boarded like a dog—one loaf of bread and a 10 cent can of syrup was divided with four men and we slept like hogs on the ground and drank out a lake with dead seep. My dear brother, it made me so sick and I laid out in the sun a whole day and I asked him to carry me home and some of the boys was starved out and they asked him to carry them, but he wouldn't. But he cursed them like they was a dog and they had to WALK 55 miles to get home and didn't had one penny and had to take it up out of the commissary store. This is the record of the landlord.

A NEW MEMBER
Batchelor, Louisiana.

WHITE SHARECROPPERS SUFFER SAME AS NEGRO IN COTTON BELT

PELLAGRA DIET

Brother Editor:

Here is a list of groceries a white sharecropper and his family of five in Tallapoosa County had to live on for three months and what they had to pay.

APRIL 4TH

48 pounds flour $1.95; Snuff 51c; Coffee 30c.

APRIL 18TH

Tobacco 12c; Snuff 51c; Coffee 50c; Floor $2.35; 4lbs lard compound 60c; 1 sack cotton seed meal $1.25; 2 sacks of hulls $1.60; Shirt 75c.

MAY 2ND

Coffee 50c; Snuff 53c; Flour $1.98; Tobacco 12c; Pure lard 55c; White meat 43c.

MAY 9TH

Thread 10c; Snuff 53c.

MAY 15TH

Flour $1.98; Pure lard 55c; Snuff 50c; Soap Powders 25c.

MAY 23RD

Cotton Seed meal $1.45; 2 sacks of hulls $1.80; Snuff 51c; Coffee 50c; Tobacco 12c.

MAY 30TH

48 pounds flour $2.45; Lard 60c; 2 paid shoes $4.70; Snuff 51c.

JUNE 6TH

Coffee 50c; Snuff 51c; Soap Powders 25c.

JUNE 13TH

1 sack of hulls 85c; 1 pair shoes $1.75; Snuff 51c.

JUNE 20TH

4lbs Lard 60c; Coffee 50c; Flour $2.50; Snuff 51c.

A WHITE SHARECROPPER
Tallapoosa County, Ala.

(Editors Note: This is the pellagra diet that make sharecroppers and their families look old and haggard while they are still young in years. This diet gives children rickets, stunts their growth and distorts their lives. This diet causes widespread sickness and often death because the sharecropper or members of the family have no resistence to disease. This is the kind of HELL the Share Croppers Union wants to abolish by abolishing the sharecropping system and the semi-slave conditions on the cotton plantations.)

RELIEF BLOCKED

Brother Editor:

One of the big landlords here received a letter from the Drouth Relief to fill out a blank so the Sharecroppers could get relief. He said he didn't need it and could live without it. He don't care if his croppers starve. He wants them to cut stove wood at 50c a cord, ready for the stove. A man has to work hard to make 35c a day, and then they have to trade it out.

All the landlords has got to sign up for croppers to get on. The government sends letters to the landlords and some if them won't even let the sharecropper know they got the letter. They say that THEY don't need relief.

A WHITE CROPPER
Dadeville, Alabama.

RUINED BY DROUTH

Brother Editor:

I sure would be glad to go to the Drouth Conference but I got my crop to gather and I have to be making syrup then. I ain't made much.

I got a two-horse crop. I will get about 5 bales. Counting out the 25 acres I planted and abut 40 bushel of corn out of 8 acres. When the County Agent sent word to come and sign up for drouth relief I went and signed up. I ain't heard a word from it yet.

I am bare footed and naked. I can't send my children to school. I ain't got nothing and can't get nothing. And my Union Brothers is in the same shape too.

A WHITE SHARECROPPER
Tallapoosa County, Ala.

TEXAS TAXES

AUSTIN, Tex.—The opening of the special session of the Texas Legislature here was featured by a recommendation of Gov. James V. Allred for an increase of taxes on oil, gas, natural resources, inheritances, franchises, and a "luxury" tax to raise approximately $10,000,000 to pay for old-age pensions and unemployment compensation.

FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR SOUTHERN SCHOOLS

Brother Editor:

About the last week in October the landlords will open the rural schools for their cropper's children. The schools are mostly small one room buildings. In some places where there are one hundred or more children you will find two small rooms but not always two teachers.

NEED NEW BUILDINGS

The buildings are no better than the houses in which the children live. That is to say, very few are ceiled. Planks that may be left over from buildings are laid across the rafters overhead and usually serves the purpose of a ceiling.

The floors have cracks wide enough for most of the dirt to fall thru in sweeping before it reaches the door.

There is one door and four to six small windows. The windows in some cases are wooden shuttles. So when it rains and the weather is cold, part if not all of these windows are closed — completely shutting out the light. On days like these the children sing spirituals which in most cases are the only songs that they know. Sometimes inside games are played or any activity that doesn't require much light.

WHAT DOES THE STATE DO?

The benches, or the sometimes home made desks are made by the parents. The blackboards are merely painted planks across the front of the room. The parents make up the money for crayons. But most teachers are forced to buy their own crayons.

WHERE ARE THE FREE BOOKS?

Very seldom there is a set of books in one class. Most children go to school for years without owning a book. Even if the children had all of their books—in all grades from one to six—they could not be heard by one teacher in the six hours a day she has for teaching.

The buildings are heated by wood heaters. In the past these heaters for the most part have been purchased from the white rural schools after being worn out there. Now all the white schools are consolidated.

There is no playground equipment. Baseballs and bats are made by the children themselves.

THE MISERY OF EDUCATION

It is to this kind of school that the undernourished and half-clothed croppers children look to for three and four months schooling a year. Not many children can attend these short terms because they cannot go when it is raining or too cold for they do not have shoes and coats and hats. Many of the children have never owned any of these. Some of the children walk six and seven miles to school. If a child is a cripple and cannot keep up with the other children, it simply means that this child has missed all of the opportunity for ever entering a school of any sort.

The white schools run nine months with buses to take the children to school. Among the Negro children you find bad tonsils, adenoids, weak eyes, and rotten teeth. There is a county health officer but the Negro children never get any aid from him except dyptheria shots when he comes every two years to give grown people shots for fever.

All of these are conditions that face the croppers and their children, poverty, misery, sickness, and disease and plenty of nothing but work, year in and year out. The only way out is thru organization and struggle.

A NEGRO SCHOOL TEACHER
Tallapoosa County, Alabama.

SHARE CROPPERS UNION, PAPER PRAISED BY FARM UNION LEADER

Brother Editor:

Some few days past a copy of your paper happened to fall into my hands. After reading the paper from front to back, I wish to extend greetings to the Sharecroppers Union and my sympathy to the sharecroppers of the South.

I will now start to work to scatter every issue of your paper that gets into my hands throughout the county. Each and every member of our union needs to be a reader of this paper.

We are now living in a day that we as workers on the farms must work together. One time in the history of our country the Negro was a slave, but Abraham Lincoln came along and busted the Bands of slavery and freed the Negro. What do we find today among the common class of people? We don't only find the Negro back in slavery again but we find the white people and the Negro both in slavery.

We have waited and waited for another good old Abraham to come along and Bust the Bands from around us, but until this day all of our waiting has been in vain. Now we wake up and find the Bands becoming more tight every day and now the strain is becoming so heavy that we must get relief.

Who is going to break the Bands? Brothers, it is up to you and me and I say to the Share Croppers Union, I glory in the work you are doing.

Don't back down. Don't give it up. We as Farmers' Union men are with you. We know your condition and you know ours. We are all in the same boat. Let us all work together and we will land the boat on good ground. I will accompany this with a subscription for your paper.

In conclusion let me say that here is to the day when the farmers and workers of the country will be organized to the extent that the very gates of hell can't prevail against us.

Yours for stronger unions,
ELMER S. DONALDSON,
County Sec'y, Farmers' Union
Winston County, Haleyville, Alabama.

HELL IN CHAMBERS COUNTY

NEED FREE DOCTOR

In Chambers County the white landlords are too mean to carry you to a doctor. On Mr. Hara Cookie's plantation a Negro lives there and he has a sickly girl and has no job. And nothing to go on. He asked Mr. Cookie to take his girl to the doctor and he would work and pay him. So he told this colored man he wanted him to pick his cotton for 25 cents per hundred pounds. So he was mad with him because he would not work for this price and wan't even get him nothing to eat. And he intends to make him move with this sick girl, and no medicine to give her.

I hope in Chambers County we can have free medicine.

The Chambers County coalitions are really had on the rental and parity checks. There are many people in Chambers County that don't even know the real meaning of rental and parity checks and the 2 cents over plus. There ain't but one white man in Chambers County that pays rental and parity checks to their sharecroppers. That is O. A. Andrews. We workers hope that the other landlords will become as honest and pay off as O. A. Andrews does.

AN S.C.U. MEMBER.

THUGS BEAT CHILD

Brother Editor:

Willie White, John Woody and Stanford Hill, these three mob gangsters took a little 15-year-old Negro boy out at night and beat him over the head with their guns and sticks and also hurt his arm. He was badly beaten over the head.

Then they came and called out his father and mother and tell them not to be uneasy about their boy. They said they didn't kill him but they told him to leave here. So this child by the name of Rosebell William can't stay with his mother and father in

AN S.C.U. Member

DYING OF HUNGER

Brother Editor:

I'm a widow woman with 3 children and my old mother who is a widow also. I live on the T. Tucker plantation. I have no job. My mother and children and myself are hungry.

I try to find work to do to feed them but these people tell me I have to take what I can get. So we are just here starving, with no job, no food, no clothing and nothing to go on.

So I am pleading, if there is any way you can help me, Please do so.

MRS. MARY LEVERT,
Lafayette, Alabama.